GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRDESH
ABSTRACT

Panchayat Raj & Rural Development Department – Grama Panchayats - Ordinary Elections to Panchayat Raj Institutions –Elections to the Office of Sarpanchas and Ward Members of Gram Panchayats – Financial Incentives to Gram Panchayats where elections held unanimously to the Office of Sarpanch & Ward Members – Awareness - Orders – Issued.

PANCHAYAT RAJ & RURAL DEVELOPMENT (E&R) DEPARTMENT

GO.Rt. No. 34 Dated:26.01.2021

Read the following:-

1. G.O. Rt No.1154 PR & RD (Elections) Dept dt. 4.8.2001
2. G.O.Rt. No.1765 PR& RD (Elecs&Rules) Dept Dt. 25.11.2008
3. G.O.Rt. No.1274 PR& RD (E&R) Dept Dt. 02.08.2013
4. G.O. Rt. No.157 PR&RD (E&R) Dept Dt. 12.03.2020
5. From the Commissioner PR&RD file No.1331081/Elections/2021 Dt.23.01.2021.

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ORDER :-

In India, local governance system has existed since ancient times. In those times each village had a self-administered governance system. The village governance was shouldered by the Panchas (five wise leaders). The village community used to select the panchas unanimously to govern the village affairs. The important criteria followed in the selection of panchas were: person's character, truthfulness, benevolence, non-favouritism and capability of delivering justice without prejudice or bias. The intention in adopting this method was to have unity and harmony among diverse groups of people in the village to enhance co-operation between the people.

2. The philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi and Lok Nayak Jayaprakash Narayan on local governance is enshrined in Article 40 of the Constitution of India, which lays down that the State shall take steps to organize village panchayats and endow them with such powers and authority as may be necessary to enable them to function as units of self-government. Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar also shared the same vision.

3. If elections to Gram Panchayat are held on party basis, there is a possibility that political rivalry, enmity and Intense animosity may grow among competing parties, thereby hampering harmony and speedy development.

4. A large number of states such as Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Telangana and Punjab continued to have election to Grama Panchayats on a non-political party basis.Some states have adopted innovative methods to encourage party-less and unanimous elections at the village panchayat level. In Himachal Pradesh, the non-party based election is adopted not only at the GP level but also at Panchayat Samithi (Block) level and in Gujarat, unanimous election is conferred with the privilege of an award of money to the GP from the state government, under the Samras Scheme, with financial grants given to each GP varying between Rs.2.0 lakh and Rs.5.0 lakh. The Government of Haryana too implementing a similar scheme.

5. Similarly, in the reference 1st read above, Government of Andhra Pradesh with a view to encourage unanimous elections for the post of Sarpanchas and members of Grama Panchayats during 2nd Ordinary elections to Panchyat Raj Institutions, issued incentive awards to such of the Grama Panchayats where the elections to the office of the Sarpanchas and ward members is unanimous @ following amounts. This would facilitate concentrating the energies of the Gama Panchayats to do developmental work in the Panchayats:

1	Villages with population upto 5,000	Rs.15,000/-
2	Villages with population between 5,000 and 15,000	Rs.30,000/-
3	Villages with population above 15,000	Rs.50,000/-

6. In the reference 2nd read above, Government with a view to encourage unanimous elections to the post of Sarpanchas and members of Grama Panchayats during 3rd Ordinary elections to Panchayat Raj Institutions, issued incentive awards to such of the Grama Panchayats where the elections to the office of the Sarpanchas and ward members is unanimous @ following rates:

1	GPs having population upto 15,000	Rs.5.00 lakhs
2	GPs having population above 15,000	Rs.15.00 lakhs

7. In the reference 3rd read above, Government with a view to encourage unanimous elections to the post of Sarpanchas and members of Grama Panchayats during 4th Ordinary elections to Panchayat Raj Institutions, issued incentive awards to such of the Grama Panchayats where the elections to the office of the Sarpanchas and ward members is unanimous @ following rates:

1	GPs having population upto 15,000	Rs.7.00 lakhs
2	GPs having population more than 15,000	Rs.20.00 lakhs

8. In the reference 4th read above, Government with a view to encourage unanimous elections to the post of Sarpanchas and members of Grama Panchayats during ensuing ordinary elections to Panchayat Raj Institutions, 2020, issued incentive awards to such of the Grama Panchayats where the elections to the office of the Sarpanchas and ward members is unanimous @ following rates:

1	GPs having population less than 2,000	Rs.5.00 lakhs
2	GPs having population between 2,001 to 5,000	Rs.10.00 lakhs
3	GPs having population between 5001 to 10,000	Rs.15.00 lakhs
4	GPs having population above 10,000	Rs.20.00 lakhs

9. As the objective of peaceful unanimous elections has not received sufficient public notice, as the G.O. 4th read above was issued just before the outbreak of COVID-19 and in the context of notification of Gram

Panchayat polls, Government deem it appropriate to reiterate the policy of the State and take the message deeper into the civil society.

10. The Commissioner, PR&RD in the reference 5th read above has submitted proposal to the Government with a request to wide publicity and create awareness among all the Gram Panchayats in the Districts about incentive Scheme unanimously elected Gram Panchayats.

11. After careful examination of the proposal of the Commissioner, Panchayat Raj & Rural Development, the orders issued vide reference 4th read above are reiterated and the Commissioner, I&PR is directed to give wide publicity and create awareness among all the Gram Panchayats in the districts about the incentive scheme for unanimously elected Gram Panchayats as the elections are being conducted on non-party basis to preserve the peace and harmony that exists in the villages in the interest of overall development of the Gram Panchayats.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

ADITYA NATH DAS
CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To:
The Commissioner, I&PR, Andhra Pradesh.

Copy to:
The Commissioner, Panchayat Raj & Rural Development, Andhra Pradesh, Tadepalli.
The OSD to Chief Secretary to Government.

//FORWARDED BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER